

FISHERY MANAGEMENT AND SAN JOAQUIN RIVER FLOW OBJECTIVES

San Joaquin Tributaries Association

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Salmon Fishery Management

- Salmon fisheries are regulated by the National Marine Fisheries Service under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. §1801 *et seq.*) with fishery management councils acting as advisory bodies.
- Pacific Fishery Management Council is the fishery management council for the west coast.
- Fishery conservation and management measures must prevent overfishing while achieving, on a continuing basis, the optimum yield from each fishery.

Central Valley Fall Chinook

- Primary commercial stock on the west coast. Includes Sacramento Fall and Late Fall-run and San Joaquin Fall-run.
- Primarily harvested south of Cape Falcon (near Oregon/Washington border).
- Regulated based on Sacramento River Fall-run (SRFC)
- Escapement objective of 122,000 natural and hatchery adult spawners, but new rules allow for continued harvest even when objective not met.
- Doubling goal not a consideration in salmon fishery management.
- No objective for San Joaquin River Fall-run, but indirectly affected by SRFC harvest
- Since 1990 San Joaquin River Fall-run escapement has averaged about 4% of SRFC
- No season in 2008-2009 and very limited season in 2010.
- SRFC overfished.

Impacts of Fishery Management

- Forecast abundance of 719,000 natural and hatchery adult SRFC, but knew forecast would likely over-predict abundance.
- Regulations were anticipated to result in an escapement of 377,000 natural and hatchery adult SRFC.
- Actual abundance 199,300
- Actual escapement 121,742
- San Joaquin adult escapement 6,377 (includes Mokelumne)
- Forecasting abundance of 819,400 natural and hatchery adult SRFC for 2012, but degree of uncertainty unknown.

Conclusions

- Escapement is regulated and controlled through fishery management.
- Fisheries are managed for sustainable maximization of fishing opportunities.
- Doubling natural production is not a factor in fishery management.
- Can we meet doubling goals when the doubling goal is not a consideration in fishery management?